

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A composition comprising a first ~~oligomer~~ and a second ~~oligomer~~, chemically synthesized oligomeric compound, wherein:

at least a portion of said first ~~oligomer~~ oligomeric compound is capable of hybridizing with at least a portion of said second ~~oligomer~~ oligomeric compound,

one of said ~~oligomers~~ oligomeric compounds is an antisense strand and the other of said ~~oligomers~~ oligomeric compounds is a sense strand, said ~~oligomers~~ oligomeric compounds are not covalently linked to each other, and each of said ~~oligomers~~ oligomeric compounds is from about 12 to about 30 linked nucleosides in length;

at least 17 nucleobases ~~a portion of said first oligomer oligomeric compound~~ is are 100% complementary to and capable of hybridizing with a selected target nucleic acid;

at least one of said first and second chemically synthesized oligomeric compounds has a plurality of 2'-hydroxy-pentofuranosyl sugar moieties; and

each of said first and said second ~~oligomers~~ oligomeric compounds includes at least one sugar surrogate ~~wherein said sugar surrogate is a 4' thioribonucleoside or a 2' deoxy 4' thioribonucleoside.~~

2-8. (canceled)

9. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 7 wherein said second ~~oligomer~~ oligomeric compound has a plurality of ribose nucleoside units.

10-58. (canceled)

59. (previously presented) A composition comprising the composition of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

60-61. (canceled)

62. (previously presented) A method of decreasing the expression of a target nucleic acid in a cell *in vitro* comprising contacting said cell with a composition of claim 1.

63-67. (canceled)

68. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein said first ~~oligomer~~ oligomeric compound has a region of at least 17 contiguous nucleosides that is 100% complementary to a region of at least 17 contiguous nucleosides located on said second ~~oligomer~~ oligomeric compound.

69. (New) The composition of claim 1, wherein each of said first and said second oligomeric compounds is from about 15 to about 25 linked nucleosides in length.

70. (New) The composition of claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and said second oligomeric compounds is a chimeric oligomeric compound.

71. (New) The composition of claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and said second oligomeric compounds comprises at least one phosphorothioate linkage.

72. (New) The composition of claim 1, wherein each of said first and said second oligomeric compounds comprises at least one phosphorothioate linkage.